

# Improvement of *Poa annua* var. *reptans* for Golf Turf

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## **Goals:**

- *Expand the evaluation and development of the advanced selections for turf quality, seed production and testing recommendations.*
- *Continue and expand seed production evaluations in Oregon.*
- *Continue and expand the development of a breeder's seed supply.*
- *Expand seeded evaluation plantings at selected golf course and university locations.*

Three selections of *Poa annua* var *reptans*, MN#42, MN#184 and MN#208, were released in an exclusive agreement to Peterson Seed Company of Savage, Minnesota in 1994. Limited quantities of seed were available for the first time in 1997.

Efforts continue to focus on learning about seed production. Additional tests were initiated to evaluate seed harvested in Oregon for trueness to type. Cultural trials continue on a high sand content (90:10, sand:peat) green that was established with 10 selections in the program, including MN#42, MN#184, and MN#208. The green was covered during the winter. Although some winter damage was observed to some selections, all recovered sufficiently.

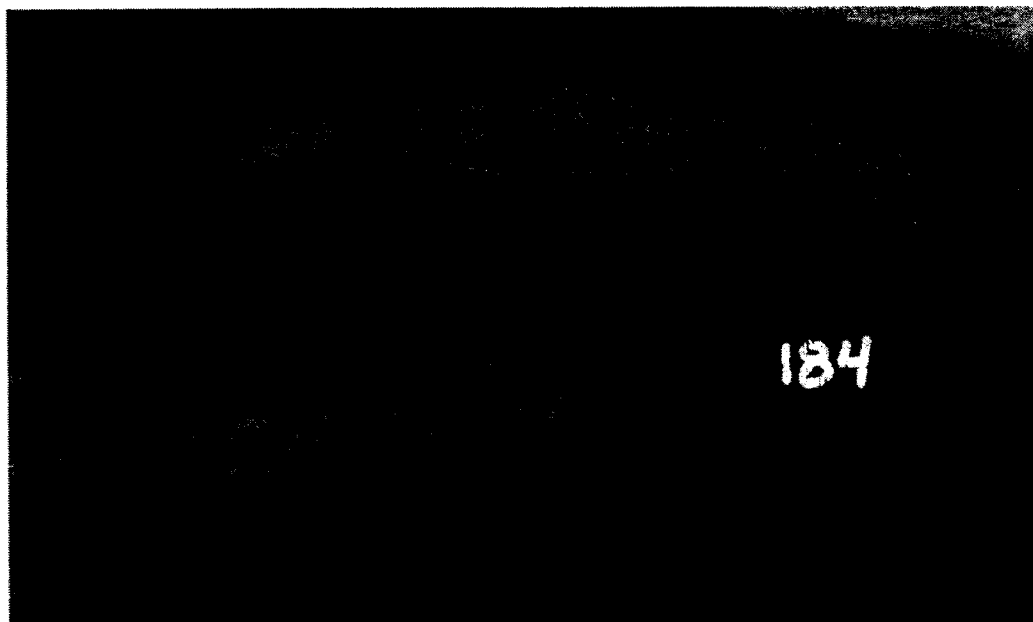
In 1996, the trial was attacked by dollar spot and *Rhizoctonia* that were identified from lab samples during the summer. However, symptoms also indicated the possibility of a severe Anthracnose or *Pythium* problem on several of the selections. MN#184 and some of the other numbered selections displayed remarkable resistance to the organism(s) involved.

In addition, MN#184 exhibited some resistance to *Fusarium* patch in both Washington and Oregon putting green trials. The 1995-96 winter was a particularly difficult year for *Fusarium* problems in the Pacific Northwest. MN#42 and MN#208 also exhibited some resistance in the Oregon trial.

Several variety trials were established during 1996 or late in the Fall of 1995.

Plantings at The Columbia Country Club in Columbia, Maryland; Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; University of Rhode Island; and the Greenbrier Country Club, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

Arrangements were made and seed delivered for future trials at the Broadmoor Country Club in Seattle, Washington; the Vancouver Country Club in Vancouver, Canada; and Pebble Beach.



**Figure 2. View of MN#184 bordered on two sides by disease susceptible selections. Dollar spot and brown patch were isolated from blighted areas. Small plots of some of the new selections (lower right of photograph) also exhibited some resistance.**